SOCIAL SCIENCE ABROAD.

DR. LYON PLAYFAIR ON HEALTH. CAUSES OF MORTALITY INCREASING—PERSONS DYING WHO OUGHT NOT TO DIE-MEANS OF PURIFICA-

TION.

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. GLASGOW, Oct. 6 .- If Saturday's excursions were meant to brace up the members of the Congress for the work of the coming week, they must, I fear, be pronounced a failure. So threatening was the weather in the morning that the numbers of those on pleasure bent dwindled to one-half of the number of tickets taken for Arran and for Loch Lomond. Nobody who knows Scotland will be surprised at that, for nowhere are the gods of wind and rain more capricious. It has been blowing a gale for some days, and that was an ominous fact, for both excursions were in great part by water. The stay-at-home party mustered in such force that scarcely more than 200 out of the 1,200 members of the Congress could be got together for both excursions. They were rewarded for their courage, I hear, by eccasional glimpses of some of the finest scenery in Scotland, and were, I dare say, much better off than those who stayed in the smoke-laden atmosphere of Glas gow-so much of it as you can get to breathe in its dingy hotels. I can only speak by report, for I was so fortunate as to spend my Saturday and Sunday in a friend's country-house in Roxburghshire, one of the loveliest spots in the Lowlands, where a roof 500 years old was our shelter; where you might wander about a park shaded by trees not much younger, in an air as cold and pure as if the Cheviot Hills had been covered with snow instead of the blue haze which softened their swelling outlines. Few parts of Scotland are more beautiful, none are so rich in the memories of ancient life and of modern romance, for this is the Borderland, the battle-ground for 400 years between England and Scotland, the Tweed flowing swiftly through it, with Flodden Field in full view on one hand and on the other the old Tower, beneath the wails of which Sir Walter Scott grew up, and where that passion for chronicle and legend which was to bear such wondrous fruit was first planted.

The address of Dr. Lyon Playfair on Health, which has been looked forward to as one of the events of the Congress, was delivered on Monday in the Queen's Rooms. Most of the eminent members of the Association were present. Lord Rosebery was in the chair, and Lord Houghton, Lord Napier and Ettrick, Sir Geo. Campbell, and the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Sir James Watson, were among those on the platform or in the audience. The subject is one on which Dr. Playfair has long been an authority, as he has upon some others-upon more indeed than one man often masters. For Dr. Playfair is really a man of unusual intellectual vigor. As long ago as 1843, then only 24, he was appointed Professor of Chemistry in the Royal Institution, Manchester, fresh from the laboratory of Liebig, then at the hight of his fame. Ten years later he was made Government Inspector-General of Schools and Museums of Science and Art, and quitted that post in 1858 to accept the professorship of chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, which he held for 11 years. In 1868 he made his entry into politics as member of Parliament for the Universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrews, and soon took high rank in the House, spite of its dis like for professors. He showed himself able and independent-so independent that when Mr. Gladstone, in that desperate effort to reconstruct his tottering administration in the Autumn of last year, made Dr. Playfair Postmaster-General, he muzzled a dangerous critic beside securing a strong man to replace a weak one. Education has been a specialty of Dr. Playfair as well as Health and Science, and he has published books on all topics. He is a good speaker, and had no difficulty in getting and keeping a hold on his audience.

He began with a question, and a practical on Are we making distinct and satisfactory progress by our sanitary measures? If we date the standard of comparison far enough back we may rejoice over an unmistakable improvement, for in London from 1660 to 1679 the death rate was 80 in 1,000, while during the last 34 years throughout England the average is but 22.4 per 1,000. And if the mean age of the whole population remained the same in 1871 as in 1861, that does not prove that sanitary science is not advancing. The causes of mortality increase, and the mortality would increase unless by gienic improvements kept pace with them. Population converges steadily to large towns-in Scotland as elsewhere-and in Scotland, unlike England, sanitary measures are neglected to such an extent that the rate of mortality has increased among every class of the population. Here is a table showing the number per thousand:

28.18 22.08

Rural districts......16.20 Let not Seatchmen, cried Dr. Playfair-himself a Scotchman-saturated as they are with national pride, shut their eyes to this startling fact. The facts he went on to give were more startling still. The death rate bears, no doubt, a general proportion to the density of population, but not to mere aggregation of numbers in one city. In London it is 22.4 per 1,000-the same as that of small Scotch townsin Glasgow 30.4 per 1.000. The difference means that in Glasgow every year 3,817 persons are killed who ought not to be killed, and need not be. It is a waste of money and of productive power, as well as of life, and not only the 3,817 dead are sufferers. On the average 34 people are ill for one death each for 184 days, and their wages at only two shillings a day make a yearly loss of £240,000. Would the canny Scotch think of that a little? There was not a doubt that proper sanitary arrangements would bring the death rate of Glasgow down to that of

What, then, are proper sanitary arrangements? There is no mystery in the matter. The problem is simple enough; it is only in the application that complications arise. A great part of sanitary science can be summed up in one word, cleanliness, and on this text Dr. Playfair enlarged through a great part of his address. Clean houses, clean water, and clean nir, those are the enemies which no epidemic can resist. For illustrations of their power. Dr. Playfnir went back even to ancient times and famous books. A respect antiquity and a disposition to discover that new truths are old have been much developed of late among scientific men. We saw that at Beifast. The book of Tobit, declares Dr. Playfair, as a distinct hygienic allegory, and there are no better rules for disinfecting foul smells than those of Ulysses as described in Homer. Hercules, too, was one of the oldest and most thorough of sanitarians, and Moses was among the most practical. The hygienic laws supplementary to his ten moral commandments were full of wisdom. Religious purifications were in the main hygienic precautions, and he thought it clear that the ancients knew as well as the moderns the main conditions of public health. The substance of all our sanitary science accumuated by ages might be summed up in the pregnant advice of the prophet, "Wash and be clean." Not that the most profound inquiries into the origin of disease are to be undervalued. When we found that the virus of small-pox reproduced small-pox only, and that of scarlet fever bred scarlet fever only, we were as much inclined to refer their origin to a specific organism as to attribute a puppy to a dog or thistledown to a thistle. The popular tradition that the body changed itself only once in seven years was nonsense. The fact was-all the particles of the body changed every six weeks. But the researches on the microtymic origin of disease, though vastly important, were scarcely yet within the domain of practical application. These bodies of low organized types were always associated with foulness. But whether putrid emanations were the result of the growth of these organisms, or whether, the emanations formed the only soil in which they could grow, neither he

but an uncompromising war with uncleanliness of all kinds. But to neglect of personal cleanliness epidemics might well be due. For a thousand years after the civilization of the Egyptians, the Jews, the Greeks, and the Romans faded, there was not a man or woman in Europe that ever took a bath. Hence arose the wondrous epidemics of the middle ages, which cut off one-fourth of the population of Europe-the spotted plague, the black death, the sweating sickness, and the terrible mental epidemics which followed in their train-the dancing mania, the mewing mania, and the biting mania. The monks made no little mischief, imitating the foul habits of the hermits and saints of early Christian times, and the association of filth with religion led men to cease to connect disease with uncleanliness, and to resort to shrines and winking virgins for cures of maladies produced by their own physical and moral impurities.

Even now, continued Dr. Playfair, we don't understand thoroughly the processes of purification, whether natural or artificial, but we know how the atmosphere contains in itself the power of freeing itself from corrupt matter: by motion and by the attacks of oxygen upon all such matter, burning up the products of decay, and turning organic into inorganic matter. But we only half learn the lessons nature teaches us. We don't allow garbage to be thoroughly oxidized, but dig holes and store it up where the air cannot penetrate, and where the greatest facilities are offered for injurious putrefaction. Or we poison rivers with it, pouring in far more matter than can be reached by natural agents. The only safe rule is to allow none at all to be poured in. After full consideration, Dr. Playfair declared he was in favor of prohibiting both manufacturers and municipalities from using rivers for drainage. Next be urged thorough ventilation and the prohibition of overcrowding-one of the most prolific sources of disease and crime. He challenged Mr. Disraeli to make good his promises of sanitary legislation, or rather of sanitary administration, for what is wanted is a thorough execution of existing laws by suitable functionaries and under scientific supervision. If I rightly understood Dr. Playfair, be would abolish the existing Local Government Board, transfer its powers to the Home Office, and divide the latter into two departments under one responsible headone department for justice and police, the other dealing with the physical interests of the people. Then he would not be satisfied with reducing deaths. Science ought to diminish disease of all kinds, and he computed that there are yearly not less than 4,300,000 cases of preventable illness in Great Britain. It was the system of registering deaths which drew attention to their number, and led to efforts to bring down the rate of mortality. He would for the same reason have every case of sickness registered, and let science deal with them also, and city compete with city for the smallest percentage of sickness. Not till that was done could public health be administered with full intelligence.

I have given the dryest part of Dr. Playfair's exceedingly interesting address-the mere skeleton of it. As delivered, it abounded in illustrations of every character, in quotations of the most unexpected kind, in humorous comment on all sorts of serious matters-and was heartily applauded. It was in fact as amusing as it was practical and valuable. All Dr. Playfair's scientific knowledge, which is both voluminous and exact, does not-to use Mr. Emerson's phrase-overload his wit. And I suppose I need not remark that the lessons he reads to Glasgow have an application even in New-York.

THE FUNCTIONS OF BANKING.

THE ENGLISH SYSTEM BETTER THAN THE AMERICAN -RAISING THE RATE OF DISCOUNT-BENEFICIAL RESULTS OF THIS DEVICE. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The admirers of American banking, I

think, may derive considerable benefit from a study of the English system; for while the system is not perfect. it is so near perfection as to be in striking contrast to our own. Banking is essentially the same the world over; but the extent to which is carried the habit of lending borrowed or deposited money, is a matter of the most vital importance in each business community. Banks and bankers receive deposits of money upon the understanding that these may be withdrawn at any moment without notice; and, as experience has shown that only a small portion will actually be withdrawn, a large portion is lent at interest for stated periods, and ne is used in buying securities that have a ready sale. If, therefore, from any cause, a large portion of the de sits should be demanded at once, suspension and failure must necessarily ensue, unless the practiced considerable conservation. Banking stimulates business, and if carried on recklessly and without due regard for the time when deposits may be in genesonrages speculation and the extension of business beyond proper and safe limits. In justice to their depositors and to the whole business community. bankers should keep a fair reserve on hand, and have no right to place the deposits in "Wild-Cat" adventures, that may result in great gain and therefore may prov disastrous. Some failures last Fall, notably that of Jay Cooke & Co., show a wonderful disregard of the rights of depositors and of the plainest principles of banking The financial tornado that burst upon Enggland with the failure of Overend, Gurney & Co., May 1. 1866, was met and checked by the nerve and decision of the Governor and Directors of the Bank of England, in advancing at once and without flinching one-half of its reserve. I may note here the words of the Governor, in regard to the failure of that firm, as bearing upon our own banking habits: "The downfall of Overend & Garney, and of many other houses, must be traced to the policy which they adopted of paying interest on deposits on call, while they were themselves tempted to invest the money so received in speculations in Ireland or in America, or at the bottom of the sea, where it was ot available when a moment of pressure arrived." policy of the Bank of England in our punic of 1873 is well remembered. Our decline of prices attracted bullion in large quantities, and to stop the flow the Bank advanced its discount rate steadily, week by week, until it reached, we think, ten per cent, when the drain ceased. There is never in England enough money to do all the business, without drawing some from the Bank hence its movements have, necessarily, to be followed by the other banking institutions, they, however, keep mg a fraction per cent behind in advancing the rate, in order to get as much business as they can do. Of course, the keeping of a large reserve means small dividends. and the stockholders of the Bank complain that other

joint stock banks depend upon it for aid in time of need, while they lend more than 80 per cent of their deposits at iterest all the time.

If our banks had the power to change the rate of in-If our banks had the power to change the rate of in-crest as selfianness or public policy dictated, this hower would be found very beneficial to all. Suppose he New-York Clearing-house Association to meet once a sees and fit the discount rate for city banks—its action would be followed in some measure by all country maks. An advance would warn large operators hroughout the land and check wild adventures. At present the fileral interest charge varies to the most ab-aired extremes; but as the banks keep lending at 7 per bent, people say that the high or low outside rate has reference only to stock operations, and think it of no consequence to legitimate business. When you put no requence only to store a pusiness. When you pure price of a commodity, those buyers who nee ast drop off. A second advance causes more los the price of a commodity, those buyers who need it least drop off. A second advance causes more loss of buyers, and the process of advancing becomes a sifting process, by which those buyers only who need the commodity most are left to purchase. Money may be considered a commodity, and the rate of interest its price. The same sifting process may be applied. Last Fall, merchants who could obtain discounts did so without needing them, merely because 7 per cent was the only price and the money might possibly be needed. If the price had been 16 per cent muca less money would have been kept idle, and more left to meet the pressing engagements of those who could afford to pay this rate. The steady advance to such a figure would have gradually and without shock caused a very beneficial currialment of business, and made the panic much less severe. Our currency being of a definite amount and not used in other countries, an advance of interest would probably be not so effectual as the English advances are found to be; but we may conclude that upon a specie baste such power as the Bank of England possesses, if conferred upon our banks, would operate to check wild speculation, to sift out the less needy borrowers, to attract money from other countries, and to prevent, or at least cure, commercial crises.

New York, Oct. 20, 1874.

A pet fox in Leavenworth, Kansas, though retending to be entirely regonerated, still retained his penchant for chicken meat. A pet wolf in the same neighborhood had the same taste. One night it happened to both to feel hungry simultaneously, and they met in a hen-house, each upon homicidal thoughts intent. "The wolf," says Dr. Webster in his Great Una the only soil in which they could grow, neither he nor any one else could tell them with certainty. Nor class it perhaps matter, practically, the certain thing being that if filth were prevented, none of these entozoa would remain permanently. What he meant by cleanliness was not merely personal absolution.

BAY STATE POLITICS.

DISSENSIONS AND DIVISIONS IN THE RE-PUBLICAN PARTY.

APPARENT UNANIMITY IN THE STATE CONVENTION-ALL THE GREAT LEADERS DEAD OR VOICELESS-GOV, TALBOT'S RENOMINATION AND ITS CAUSES -MR. DAWES'S PLANS FOR THE SENATE-THE BO...TING FEVER EVERYWHERE LATENT-BANKS AND BUTLER.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. Boston, Oct. 17 .- Notwithstanding the apparent unanimity of sentiment at the late Republican State Convention, at no time in its history was that party ever so seriously divided in its policy and in the support of its candidates as it is to-day. There is not that utter and absolute hatred of one portion of the brethren toward another in its ranks that prevailed when the war raged between the Butler and the anti-Butler factions; but had as these divisions were, they were settled in the State Conventions, and the party afterwards presented a united front to the opposition. Now dissensions continue long after and threaten the loss of the election itself. They pervade all party action also. With no common cause other than that of general party decadence, they are everywhere heard of. Nominally closed over in the case of the candidate for Governor, they break out with increased violence at more than half the Congressional conventions; and when the contests for minor offices are reached they take on the aspect of personal squabbles for place in almost every section. The natural preponderance of Republicanism in Massachusetts is so immense that it is possible it may endure this strain for a single year; but with the examples of incompetent direction that have been seen, and the opportunities they have afforded to the schemes of small politicians, it is plain that another such campaign would overthrow the party even in this the fountain head of its power.

It is not at all impossible that such may be the result even of this year's election. The dissatisfaction is so alipervasive, and finds so much in the canvass at every point to enhance it, that it only needs to be fairly set in motion by some strong, representative man to over come the party like an avalanche. There is no estimating, for instance, in what a boit in one or two Congressional districts might end.

A PARTY WITHOUT LEADERS.

The difficulty is that there are very few plucky and independent leaders left in the Republican ranks here. John A. Andrew is dead, and the courage with which he inspired the Republican party of this State seems to have died with him. Nobody doubts that if he had lived he would have led in a revolt against party policy, and it would have been a revolt that would have dethrened the incompetency and corruption that now prevail, or would have revolutionized the party out of power Charles Sumner is dead, too, and receives a homage for an independence that is not imitated, that is one of the proudest tributes ever paid to man. Frank Bird is in opposition, where he is more consulted, respected, and admired by the better men among the Republican leaders than is any man in orthodox party standing. Wm. S. Robinson, who has done more brain-work in the campaigns of the party than anybody eise, stands aloof, if not disgusted. Nobody has come forward to fill adequately anything like the places of these men. Vice-President Wilson intelligently comprehends the situation; but his health is too feeble for active effort, and his routine partisan instincts make him politic only in the narrower sense-which means that he thinks the cauker can be cut out without swerving the party machinery. Judge Hoar is able, upright, and courageous; but he has no taste for active political effort, and shuns the position of a leader in any sphere of polities. Senator Boutwell is sick in body and is as ineffective for influence since his unfortunate action of last Winter as if the hole in the sky that he once pictured had really received him. There are left only Henry L. Dawes and Geo. F. Hoarthe one a man who never put his hand to the plow with a view to any reformatory effort without straightway looking back; the other, with much more ability and

almost always belongs to disasters, when they went over to the other faction. In addition to this, one of them had the control of the most influential party organ in the State. Its surrender was regarded as a confession of weakness, and it fairly demoralized all effort on the part of its former allies. There was much complaint and more relactance; but it was the final surrender was inevitable. This is the secret of the strength of Gov. Talbot's vote in the State Convention. A uniority of those participating in it entered upon the act reluc tantly. It was an unnecessary act, had the opposition not had its interests sacrifice I as a supposed necessity toward Mr. Dawes's election to the Senate. There were several other candidates who might have been nominated without giving offense to more than a handful of the Prohibitionists, and with whom in the field there would hardly have been more than a nominal contest on the part of the Democratic party, either on the State ticket or in the Congressional districts. Mr. Dawes himself is thought to have been doubtful of the plan at the beginning; but he is easily persuaded, and early in the Summer months, in one of his visits to Boston, the arrangement was settled.

MP DAWES AND THE SENATE. Mr. Dawes made another of his too frequent mistakes in so doing. The opposition to him had softened since ast Spring, and the prospects of his election to the Senate with a quiet canvass were excellent. He probably will not have much difficulty in getting a caucus nomination, as it is, from his party next Winter. But the next Legislature will not be as strongly Republican as those of previous years. Party discipline will not be so easily enforced in it either, unless present indica-tions are misleading. Besides the hundred or more Democrats likely to be elected, there will be scores of baiting Republicans returned. These are more likely to vote for some such man as Charles Francis Adams than for the regular caucus nominee. Senator Washburn too, has never signified any intention of subordinating his claims to those of Mr. Dawes, nor will be, you may be very sure, while there is hope that he may be preferred again to the latter gentleman. He will draw off every vote that he can. Gen. Butler's warmth of friendship for the Berkshire Rrepresentative may be as sudden in its subsidence as it was remarkable in its sise-and Gen. Butler always has a score or so of votes to dispose of. There is no chance for Judge Hoar, it is probable, but it would be strange if he had not some supporters, who remember last Spring's struggle. So it is not impossible, even if Gov. Talbot is elected, that the heavy portion of the plan of the new leadership of the Republican party may fall to the ground. THE REPUBLICANS DEMORALIZED IN THE CONGRES

SIGNAL DISTRICTS.

Under ordinary circumstances it is greatly more difficuit to induce men to vote against the Republican party in Massachusetts in the election of National than of State officers. This year, however, the demoralization has spread with fully as much strength into the Congressional districts. The state of affairs in this respect is altogether without precedent. In almost two-thirds of the districts of the State the Republican caudidates for Congress are obnexious to a large section of the Indeed, the breaking out of boiting is imminent at any moment, and may occur in all of them before this letter gets into print. The very great Republican preponderance may save most of these districts, but it seems hardly possible now that it can hold them all. The 1st, 1id, and 1iid Districts are the only ones that have escaped frouble in some form. Mr. Buffinton holds the 1st by his arfful management, Mr. Harris the 1id by his amiable and unaggressive disposition, and Mr. Pierce the 1iid by his personal popularity.

Of the others, the Republican organization in the others, as now seems certain, there will be yet another case of remonstrance, if not of rebellion. Mr. Alexander is one of the most skiliful of pointical manapulators, and can do much for himself either in cancuses, conventions, or at the polis. There are already open threats that his nomination, as now seems certain, there will be yet another case of remonstrance, if not of rebellion. Mr. Alexander is one of the most skiliful of pointical manapulators, and can do much for himself either in cancuses, conventions, or at the polis. There are already open threats that his nomination, as now seems certain, there will be yet another case of remonstrance, if not of rebellion. Mr. Alexander is one of the most skiliful of pointical manapulators, and can do much for himself either in cancuses, conventions, or at the polis. There are already open threats that his nomination, at the polis. There are already open threats that his nomination, as now seems certain, there will be yet another case of remonstrance, if not of rebellion. Mr. Alexander is one of the most skiliful of pointical manapulators, and can do much for himself either in cancuses, conventions, and can do much for himself either in cancuses, conventions, and an unapplicators, and can do much for himself either in cancuses, conventions, and an unapplicators, and can do much for himself either in cancuses, conventions, and an unapplicators, and can do much for himself either in cancuses, convention party, and in three or four it is only by the utmost effort

IVth is fully in Collector Simmons's hands. The Collector somewhat estentatiously announced neutrality here as between the candidates a short time since; but it was not till he had fixed things entirely to his liking. He is more influential in Boston than he ever was before. Not only does he hold his power over the lower elements in politics, but he has conquered some of those who profess more of honesty and dignity as well. It is reported, and currently believed, and recent events tend strongly to its confirmation, that a portion of those who opposed the Collector's nomination last Spring, and obtained a large share of praise for so doing, have since

made their peace with him, and are to oppose him no

longer. A PROTEGE OF SIMMONS.

Mr. Rufus S. Frost, the Republican nominee for Congress in the IVth District, is not one of these. He has always been the friend, ally, and admirer of Simmons. He telegraphed to Washington in his favor when the Senate was hesitating about confirming his nomination, and he promptly put his name on Simmons's bond of office when the appointment was made. Simmons unquestionably promised to make him a member of Congress in return for this. With the aid of heavy drafts upon Mr. Frost's money, he is doing his best to keep his word. The Republican Convention was carried with a rush that distanced competition altogether. Both before and after it the bummers have been in clover. The past three or four mouths have reminded them of the palm jest days of Mr. Hooper's contests. The enthusiasm with Frost clubs spring up every day, a list of officers of no one of whom any-body has ever heard before, makes old observers smile, but can hardly fail to bring a different expression to the candidate's face when the bills come to be footed. Mr. Frost is, however, an estimable gentleman personally, who would not be likely to do anything wrong in Congress unless the should find other Simmonses there to hoodwink him. He seems to have settled with his conscience that it is consistent with the highest integrity and the best Christian character to carry the election after the Simmons method-and I really believe, so innocent is his nature, that he sees othing wrong in it. To do the Boston newspapers jus tice, the most of them give him only a cold support. The Advertiser is all ready to join in a bolt against him, if anybody will start it. The Democrats talk of nominating Judge Abbott, one of their most prominent leaders, in opposition, and he may be elected. He will be unless the Collector has debauched the Democratic leaders in the North-end Wards, as has been his wont in other years.

GEN. BANKS'S CHANCES FOR SUCCESS EXCELLENT. In the Vth District there is earnest and persistent rebeilion against Mr. Gooch in the Republican party. The usual squabbles about the patronage of the Charles town Navy-Yard have something to do with this. It keeps the Charlestown Republicans chronically divided into factions. There is a Labor Reform element in the City of Lynn, also, that threatens to leave him for Gen. Banks. The General thinks he can be elected. It is difficult to disagree with him on this point. Gen. Banks's popularity is phenomenal-perennial, also, one might say. The Charlestown laborers in the Navy-Yard have found him always advocating their interest; the Lynn shoemakers say he is the laborers' especial friend. Charlestown and Lynn make about half the district. Then Banks has troops of personal followers in other towns. He dines with the club called after his name every Saturday, and meets there scores of Republican politicians who would never think of boiling party under other circumstances, but who are all for him when he runs for office. He is poor, too, and without profession or occupation, and needs the office. The im pression is very general that he will get it. It is not at all safe to prophesy to the contrary, despite the fact of the large Republican majority in the district, and the unanimous nomination of Mr. Gooch.

Gen. Butler has profited so largely by the blunders in the tactics of the Boston managers, which I fully exposed to you in a former letter, and which are alluded o in the beginning of this, that it seems now impossible to defeat him. These wiseacres even went so far as to make public a calculation in which it was claimed that

tion, could easily defeat it by leading a bolt. He will not do this. J. K. Tarbox, the Democratic candidate, is a man of good character and ability and some personal popularity; but he is one of the most pronounced partisaus in the State, and has been so severe in his denunciations of Republicans in times past that it is not easy for them to vote for him. He will get a good many Re publican votes, nevertheless, and, as this district is not so strongly Republican as most others outside Boston,

The opposition to J. M. S. Williams's reclection in the VIIIth District is the most pointed and plucky of all the exhibitions of Republican dissent from party decrees. It hardly seems possible that there can fall to be a bolt ere, and, if the Democrats are shrewd, they ought to e able to defeat Mr. Williams. This gentleman was very badly involved in the Crelit Mobilier business, he has been loose in his talk about the back-pay filehing of members of Congress, and he has privately given aid and comfort to the Inflationists on the financial question. Objections enough, certainly, and it is no wonder that those who appreciate their force refuse to be repressed. Mr. Williams would have been defeated if Gov. Ciaffin had continued a candidate against him. There is excellent Congressional timber in the district. the Democrats would agree to support either John S. Parlow of Newton, or Robert M. Morse of West Roxury, Liberal Republicans, or Francis M. Johnson of Newton, a Republican of good party standing but excellent character and ability, they could no doubt elect either of them, despite the large Republican majority in the district. They now talk of nominating Wm. W. Warren of Brighton, or Waido Colburn of Dedham, both gentlemen who would be a vast improvement on Mr. Williams, but not so well adapted to get Republican

PROSPECTS OF THE OPPOSITION In the fXth District Mr. Geo. F. Hoar is likely to be chosen. Gen. Butler, it is said, will secretly oppose him, and he has considerable disaffection with which to labor. Mr. Hoar's ability and usefulness in public life have been such that despite his mistakes, his district is proud of him, and there is a more general desire to see him returned to Congress in the State generally than is expressed in favor of any other candidate. He is by nature an independent man, though he has taken a strictly partisan tone of late in all his actions. The State will need him too in the next Congress, for, aside from Gen. Butler, there is little probability of her electing any other representative of a high order of talent. Mr. Eli Thayer, the Democratic nominee, is an eccentric politician, of no strong party affiliations in any direction. He is very smart upon the stump, and is giving Worcester County people a lively canvass.

The Xth District is the strongest Republican district in the State. Charles A. Stevens, the regular Republican nominee, will probably carry it. He is not a bad candidate, having fair abilities and good character. Of course he bears no comparison in qualification with Prof. Seelye, but those independent people who were so sanguine as to think they would be allowed to elect the best man, in his case are probably doomed to disappointment. Party machinery is not so easily upset in its operation when it has the most power behind it. In the XIth District, if Henry Alexander gets the

Republican nomination, as now seems certain, there will

THE FASHIONS.

DRESS REFORM. A REVIVAL OF SHORT SKIRTS-TWO DISTINCT STYLES FOR STREET AND HOME-BALL DRESSES BY GAS-LIGHT-NEW JEWELS AND CAMEOS-NO DE-CREASE IN EXTRAVAGANT STYLES OF DRESS-NEW FRENCH AND ENGLISH FABRICS-REDUCED

PEICES. Rumors gain upon us of impending revolu-

tions-hints that the world will soon witness the threes of an anti-fashion and long-dress society or congress. The anti-fashion movement is simply one of those spasmodic phenomena which are as harmless as Summer lightning. The short-dress movement begins to look serious as it is sensible, and will be approved by all sensible women. In France there are no dragging skirts, no anathemas. The women wear their short skirts with an exquisite, airy, and dainty grace, conscious of the purity thereof, and knowing that there is nothing to condemn in the display of the delicate instep. All pedestrians, both men and women, are therefore amiable. To this Americans are gradually arriving, and she who slowly promenades a crowded thoroughfare with trained skirts will become as notorious as was the woman who persisted in a chienon and hoop after both had ceased to be fashionable. Cleanliness, propriety, and a Christianlike regard for the emotions of others, should rebei against the trained street dress. Fashion, however, arranges matters of this sort quietly, firmly and surely as Autumn cousigns the leaves one by one to the dust. and to wear a trained dress in the street, with one of the new cuirass basques, the chain-mail overskirt, the flat close apron, Joan d'Arc costume, or any of the late striking changes in dress, will make a woman look as bold as she is bizarre. At a daylight exposition, a gaslight view given of

ball dresses was as fairy-like as if it was a glimpse of a

land where sewing-machines and earthly flagers were

unknown. Robes of the daintiest colors with superb

sweep of train adorned the lay figures in a continuous array of harmonious colors, toned down by falls of richest point lace, glimmer of silken embroidery and fringes, and illumined by the purple bloom of violets and blush of roses. The shadowy colors, by preventing too violent contrasts, are becoming to every style of for example, a silk of pale straw color massed with flat knife plaitings had a cloud-like overskirt of crèpe lisse, its gossamer folds caught here and there by garlands of darkly tinted Autumn leaves set with deep red Cardinal roses. Another was of heavy white gros grain combined with ruby velvet and falls of creamy point lace. A faint tint of silvery lavender with voluminous train had a tablier of brocade of the same shade, and behind these were intermixed flounces of faille and Damascus gauze in puffings and ruches, caught here and there by sprays of white line; the décolleté waist and small basque were masses of faille and falls of white Spanish blonde and sprays of blac. Charming dresses of pale blue and of delicate flesh color were ornamented with silk knife-plaitings and lisse combined. An amber. failte was draped in a cloud of black Chantilly lace, caught in graceful festoons at corsage, shoulders, on the sides, and trailing with the sushes with clusters of scarlet geraniums; and in contrast next came a toilet of opal blue with full train, with gossamer lace drapings fastened with pale pink buds and white daisies. This seems simple enough, but the cloud of lace was thread, net-edged with flouncings of real point. For this exquisite toilet was being prepared a set of delicate pink coral and diamonds. There are accessories of these lovely tollets in the shape of exquisitely painted fans, high full ruffs, wide sashes of two colors in reverse and fantastic necklets. To correspond with this mediaval fashion of dress,

come the new jewels, with settings of wonderful beauty.

and in this as in dress we have the gratification of a re-

fined sense of color; for with the siiks from Damascus should be worn the pearls, the emeralds, and the changeful opals of the East. Accompanying a superb looking back; the other, with much more addition and such independence of the political field only in an effort to demonstrate by the result of an appeal to his constituents that his is not a personal faction.

With such losses in leadescape on the one hand, and such indisposition or incompetency on the one hand, and incompetency of the sum, or the competency of the political field only in the competency of the political field only in the competency of the political field only in the competency of the political field on the political field on the competency of the political field on the political field on the political field on the political field necklace, in which the diamonds were graduated in size, was a pendant of heart-shaped diamonds surroundher arms. There are pendants of exquisite styles in cameo and gold, incrusted with precious stones. The art of cameo-cutting has certainly reached the highest degree of perfection. Upon onyx, sard, chalcedony, or chrysoprase, heads and mythological studies are faithfully reproduced in delicate carving. On a pendant sardonyx of a rosy brown, clouded with white delicate tintings, is a head of an Egyptian antique, the setting worthy of the gem in its dropping pendants of gold and

> Another beautiful pendant cross of that dark onyx, with its upper strata of a translucent blue-gray, had carved upon it the Immaculate Conception after Murilio. The figure of the Virgin is a fine specimen of artistic skill. At the turee upper points of the cross are angels' heads in a mist of clouds. Another pendant is formed of a cameo nearly square, a group of tiny figures standing out in bold tinted relief from the mel low brown of the onyx, representing Solomon's Judgment, taken from the famous picture. On an antique sard of sunny, rosy hue is the farewell of Hector and Andromache. On a crescent-shaped black onyx are carved Cupid and Psyche; this is set in heavy pierced gold, with a fringe of pearls. Set in a bracelet of open pierced gold is an exquisitely cut sardonyx of Phœbus driving his chariot, the design representing the rising sun above in golden rays, each tipped by a diamond, and a falling mist beneath, produced by innumerable delicate gold shafts, with dropping diamonds so blended together as to form a dazzling sheen of brilliancy. One still more noticeable in this collection of gems is a large, beautiful onyx, set in pearls and diamonds, or a sleeping Psyche, with a butterfly hovering over the temple and another nestling in the breast, emblems of a wakening love in head and heart. There was also a heavy ring of dark gold called the "Talisman;" set in the gold were two diamonds, a sapphire, a ruby, and an emeraid

of great brilliancy.

Among new-fashloned charms for gentlemen's chains was a little red gold crequet mailet with bars of blue enamel; this turns into a pencil. A gold burnished kuife contains many little toilet necessaries, glove buttoner, etc. A red gold spinning-top draws out into a pencil. There are handsome chains for gentlemen of Japanese designs in oblong solid bars of red gold, with flowers and birds in colored gold, with pendants at-

For glove bracelets are slender bands set with a blaze

of diamonds. The most costly necklace seen the present season was a glittering chain of finest fracery, from which large solitaire diamonds apparently fall, and large pearls between each diamond drop in pendants of ivery luster, yet with the faintest pink and golden hue. High and strongly contrasting colors are quite abanoned. There is simplicity in style, but not in quality or ornamentation. The fashions for Winter are approprinte and sensible, yet of exceeding richness and extravagance. The excess in embroidery has reached its chmax. It is impossible to be more embroidered, more braided over and sewed over with the gilttering of beads in jet and blue steel, and steel gray and white jet, than women are now. After satiety comes reaction; it is well to recommend ladies not to embroider upon rich material itself. Imported dresses are elaborately trimmed with the jet work applique; the beads are formed into wreaths and other designs upon some stiff material, cut out and then laid upon the silk or velvet, when the style becomes old-fashioned, as it will sooner or later. The appliqué work is easily ripped off without the fabric having been defaced. Some imported unmade black silk dress patterns are beaded in designs to suit each part of the dress. For instance, the tablier is nearly covered with an intricate design, and this is cuffs, and perhaps a little pocket in the basque. The made-up black silk and black velvet costumes are trummed with lengthwise rows of rich let embrendery edged with repeated graduated on the back of the waist, the fronts,

jetted lace, placed on each side of a puffing or bands of relvet. The regular overskirt is in its decadence; stead is worn the apron of various lengths and styles. In the embroidery of intricate handicraft one cannot but commend the progress of industry and perfection of manufacturing processes. There have been prediction founded on rumors coming from the gay French capital that simplicity and economy were coming to us, but the decrees of Worth, Roget, and Pingot, so rigidly followed by our own modistes, prove that all speculations of that sort are illusive as a dream, and extravagance, richness in all matters of the toilette, artistic tastes, and perfect elegance without ostentation are the signs of the times at present.

In new fabrics France sends us the lizzue de matelasse before mentioned, one New York house making a speciaity of beaded matelasse; upon every yard from 20,000 to 90,000 beads are sewed by hand. This is used in combination with gros grain silk in costume, for perhaps a front breadth, tablier, sleeveless jacket, or polonaise. It is exceedingly thick and warm as a quilted garment. These costumes are mostly trimmed with fur or feather bands. France also sends us very elegant embroidered and brocaded silks to combine with silk gauze, faille, or velvet, Joan d'Arc chain-armor suits in cuirass and

and brocaded sliks to combine with alk gauze, fallle, or velvet, Joan d'Arc chain-armor suits in culrass and apron of beaded net work in blue steel or gray steel, and Kabyle cloth for opera cloaks, the latter a species of supero Algerian citoti in stripes of white, stripes of blue and waite, scarlet and white, and white glittering with threads of gold.

From Excland in new fabries by way of contrast and to teach people common sense and the Spartan simplicity attributed to Republican Amrica, there come to keep us warm "Oxford" homespuns and Scotch cloths, among other noveithes. The homespuns are soft, all-wood, large-meshed and dlazouni, and come in every shade of gray and brown. The Scotch cloths are similar to the Eaglish in fashion, both styles ranging in price from 50 cents to \$1 a yard. Nine yards of any of these comfortable Oxford homespuns will make a "Z-mobia" or "Empress" polonaise, which combines the effect of basque and overskirt in one, trimmed with wool fringe and smoked pearl buttons, for wear over any sort of a black skirt. So Engiand keeps us warm but France makes us beautiful! In return, we send England American silks and American water-proof, quite equal in beauty and durability of color to the English.

At the grand expositions of the past week were dresses from Worth's, giving an exquisite artistic arrangement of colors in a single costume; for example, a rosy gray gros grain has in beautiful contrast tacings and pipings of dark Cardinai red. The appron was simple enough and graceful withal, of two brendths of all with iong red lows fastening the front; this was plainly trummed around with a bias band and red pipings. The novelty in this was the two back breadths made straight and puffed in two large loops with red ribbon. This is certainly more picturesque with an interesting than the distributions.

red pipings. The novelty in tana was the two back breadths made straight and puffed in two large loops with red ribbon. This is certainly more picturesque than the flat backs that have been seen of late. The basque had a pointed front and revers and fan snaped postition back, all faced with the Cardinal red. There was a round colar lined with red, with two inner ruches of silk and a fraise of crèpe lisse still inside of that, making a most laborate garatture for a neck. The neck adopting this style should be as swan-like as ever poet imagined. The skirt had side plaifings, one in front and two behind, with pullings and neadings, the red lining just showing above the edge. Another very elegant carriage dress was of milberry gros grain, the tabler a series of very fine shirrings; at each side a broad revers was eaged with a tinck cord, and instened in place by large crochet buttons. An extension flounce formed the train, and this was edged with narrow kulfe-plaifings. A shawl-shaped overskirt, puffed at the back, was so arranged that the point fell diagonally at the left side; this was also trimmed with flae plaining. The coquettish basque was edged like the revers, and was cut Pompadour, both front and back, and filled in with very line shirrings of silk. The close coat-sleeves were made open on the outer seam, and buttoned with large mulberry crochet burtons. A magnificent black velvet dianer costume was made at the back into a long train with a series of graduated pulls. The front was of lengthwise rows of jet embroidery edged with jetted lace, and a small round basque was trimmed correspondingly. This was considered low-priced at \$459. A bronze olive green faille had an overskir of the linest, rehest velvet, just half a shade darker than the slik which formed the dress. The effect produced was very artistic. In other styles, there is a mixture of silk and cashnere. The front of the dress is silk; the sides of the skirt, which form large revers are cashnerer; the back breadths are silk, trainned with silk flou artistic. In other styles, there is a mixture of silk and cashmere. The front of the draws is silk; the sides of the skirt, which form large revers, are cashmere; the back breadths are silk, trimmed with silk flounces, headed with ensumere bands; the wast is cashmere, but the sleeves and veet are silk. Negling costumes arranged differently, although with a similar mixture of silk and wool. The skirt is silk, but the overskirt and small basque are either beer, cashmere, or camel's half. All of the imported street dresses were made to escape the ground—a mainton it is to be presumed our modisles will have the good taste to follow. Many of this style were composed of skirts of gros grain and polonaises or sacques of matelasse, elegantly trimmed with bands of silver fox. Chinchila, raches of cock's feathers placed just above a fringe of the same, ostrick feather raches,

dress. This makes become their rather difficulty, and sitting down an art to be learned under difficulties. Added
to these perpicatives, large panier puffs are coming in
to take the place of the small tournare wern a month of
two ago. In fact, if never before, now is the time to
tearn the golden mean!

Liberal use will be made of velvet this Winter. The
finest or most desirable velvet is of Lyons manufacture,
and the most elegant has an indefinite shade of invisitile blue, or black-blue. The very fashionable costume
for carriage, visiting, or church, is a combination of velvet and silk, never to be used under any circumstances
for demi-tollette occasions, shopping, or informal calls.
The proprieties of dress can never be too carefully
studied for the object and the occasion. For anceremonolous visiting and promenading and shopping, nothing can be more appropriate than fleecy camel's hair
cloth, genume Irish friezes, drap d'ed, casimer of
serre. Siles are very much reduced in price, and in dry
vector of all descriptions there is an equivalent reducling can be a result friezes, drap d'elé, casamere of serre. Silss are very much reduced in price, and in degrey goods of all descriptions there is an equivalent reduction. India shawis, rich laces, furs, domestic goods, carpetings, and all kinds of aphoistery, tible linens, &c., have ocen marked down. Five hindrest dollar costumes seil for \$250, and the downward scale makes 15 centures seil for \$250, and the downward prints sell for 10 cents! Mesars, Arnold & Constable, Wilson & Greig, Lord & Taylor, Peake, Opstycke & Co., and A. T. Stewart & Co., for general information urnished, and Start & Marcus, for notes about jewelry, will please accept thanks.

AN EAST SIDE BAZAR.

E. RIDLEY AND SON-EVERYTHING FOR MEN AND WOMEN, DIG AND LITTLE.

E. Ridley & Son of No. 309 Grand-st., offer great bargains in the way of tich and new styles of beaded passementeries, finest bead gamps, and silk with jet and silk fringer, guipare sets with loops for silk and velvet wraps, and every imaginable style of batton, crochet, embroidered, and pearl, and others suitable for heaviest Winter garments. There is an immease and varied assortment of wool fringes in chenille and ball in every new shade for camel's hair and serges. Tots great East Side establishment, with its five floors filled to overflowing with notions, dry goods, millinery, and toys, offers great bargains also in gloves in a great variety of the new shades. Among the specialties are the "Edward" and the "Monogram," at extremely low prices for a two-buttoned glove, and there are other styles as low in two buttons at \$1 10 and 95 cents a pair. Men's gloves are marked down equally low, as in two buttons for \$1 25 and \$1 75, and in gauntiets for Winter wear, with kid, fur, and otter tops, plush lined, at equally low prices. On one floor is a bazar of ribbons of the new cardinal red in all its beautiful warm shades, reversible and embroidered sashes and sash ribbons; ribbons for hair and wristlets, and ribbons for every danty device, varying from 10 cents to all silk ten-inch ribbons at \$1. Beautiful silk velvets in brilliant colors for bonnels and trimmings are to be found here in the greatest profusion and at very low prices, considering the excellent quality. Fine black and colored velveteens are selling as low a from 35 courts of 81, scarcely differing in appearance from sike velver. Handreds of birds of every clime, color, and size are saucity perched in all directions, also fat prices below cost, some of them as cheap as 45 cents. There is a be whidering array of graceful plumes, catrich tips, algrettes, feather trimming, Cardinal red roses, scariet popples, and garlands of gayly thatly Autumn leaves, all for the adornment of fine Frence falt hats of all the fashionable shades and velvet bonnets, both imported and made up at this establishment. The American felt hats, in colors to match the new cloth shades, are quite equal to the fine imported shapes. There are, besides, rading, and street wear. There is a large exposition of mignon and turquoise slik of pretty fancy shades, marked down as low as 45 cents a yard. Among the fancy goods is an immense variety of handsome unitined jewelry and ornaments, fine perfumery, odor caskets, soaps, pretty fanciful stationery, new and elegant designs in Berlin wools and worsted controlleries; yak, guipure and other made-up lace articles, beside infantal venture and content made-up lace articles, beside infantal venture and content made-up lace articles, beside infantal venture. mings are to be found here in the greatest profusion and